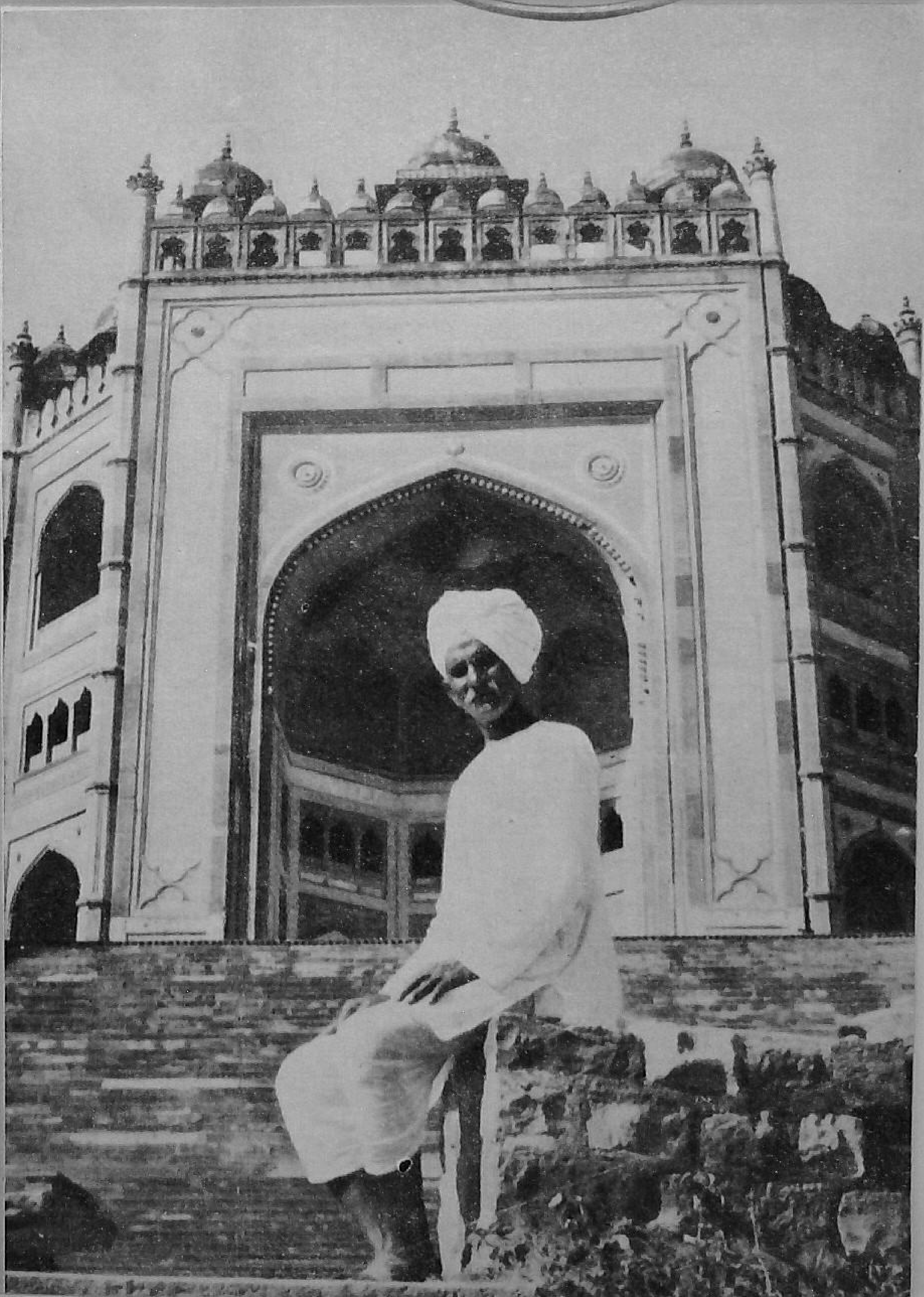
Panchayati Raj

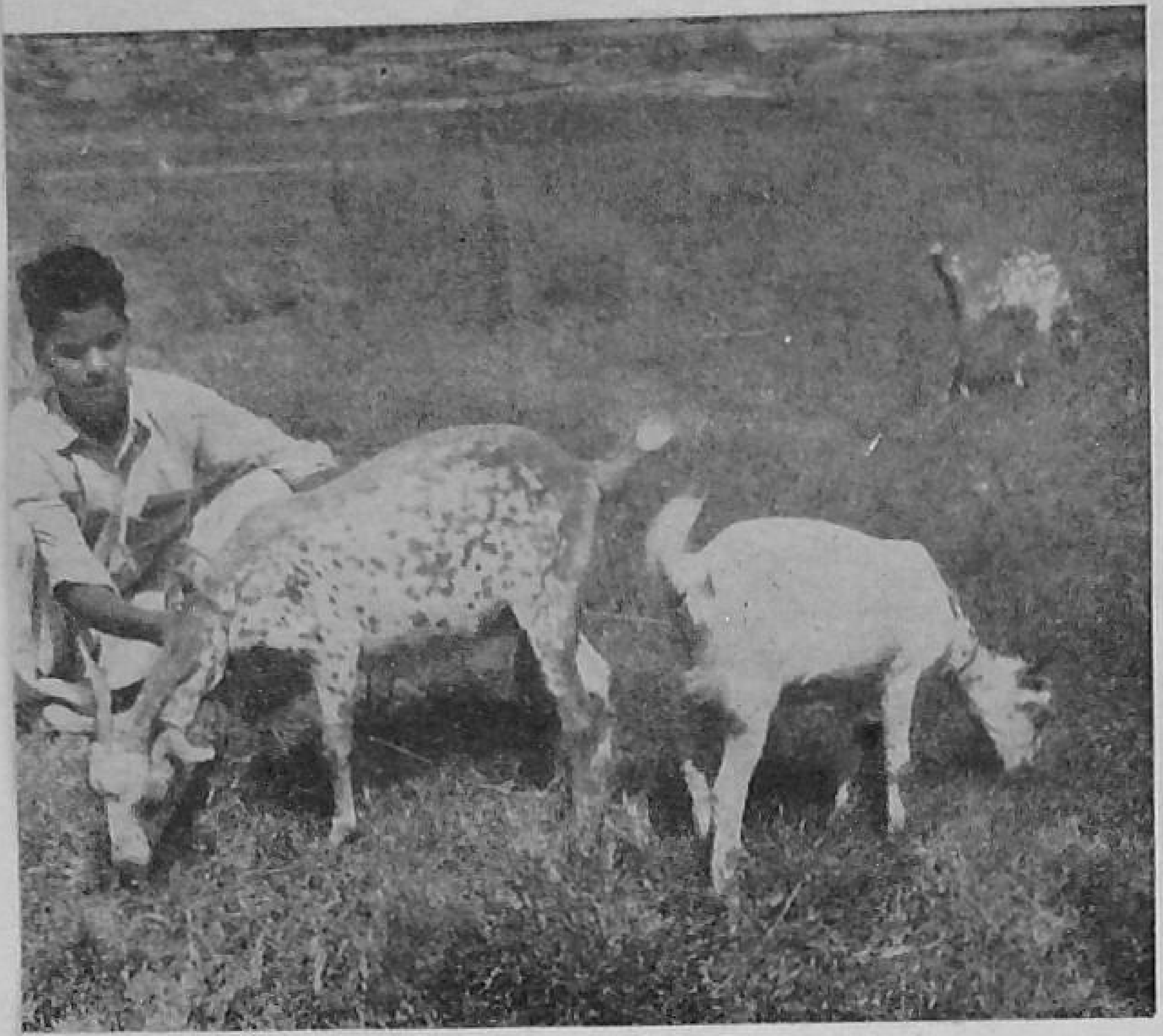
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
17 DEC 1962
KOVILPATTI
RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE

DECEMBER 1962

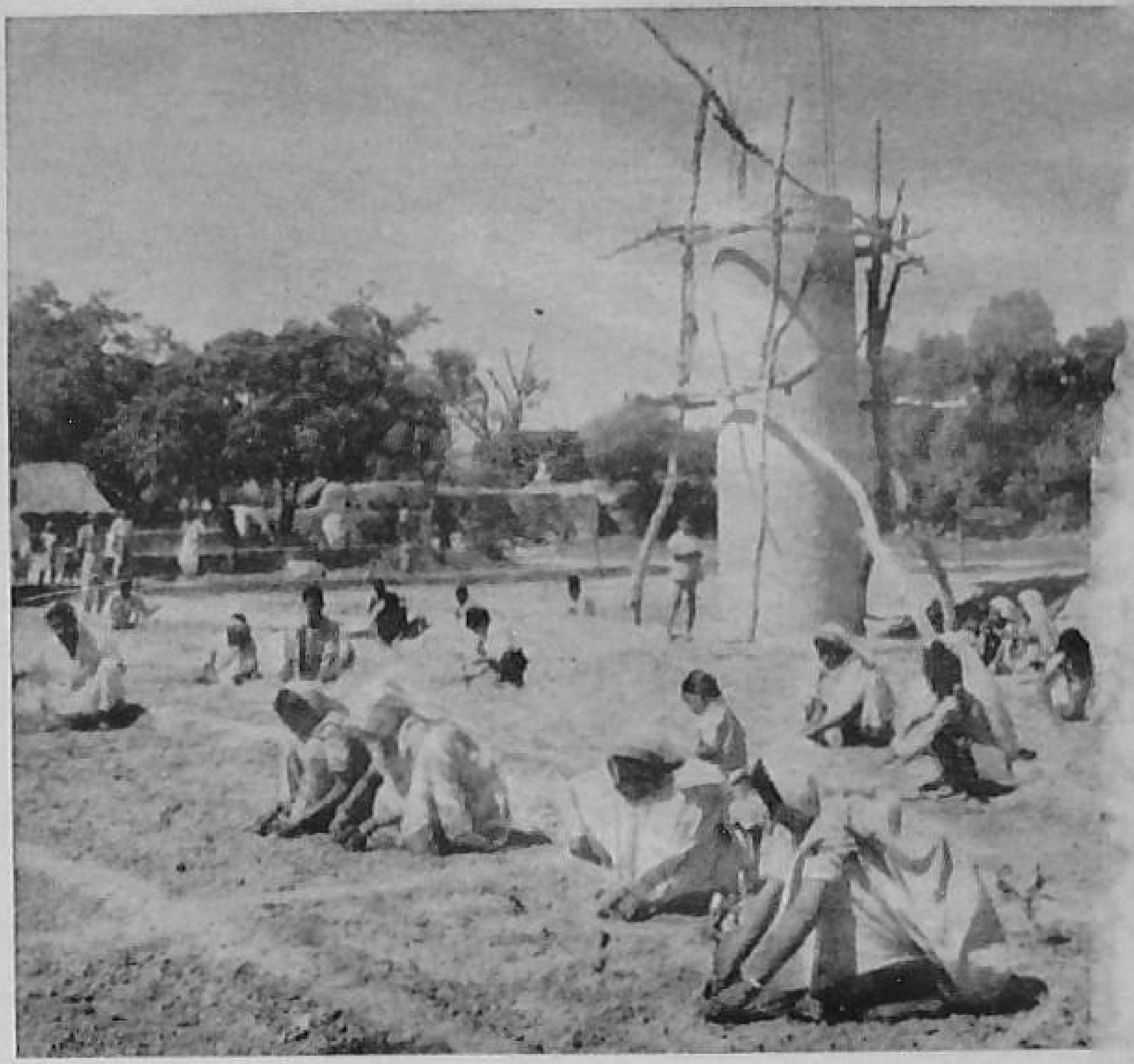


hri BASTIRAM PRADHAN f village Sarsa, Fatehpur Sikri lock in Uttar Pradesh. The illage has been adjudged as the est in the country. In the ackground is the historical monument of "Buland Darvaza" uilt by Emperor Akbar to mark is victory in the Deccan.

A Yuvak Mangal Dal in U. P.



A young member of the Yuvak Mangal Dal, in village Sahara is seen grazing the 'Barbari' goat and her kids. Rearing the 'Barbari' goat is one of the economic projects taken up by the young members under the Mangal Dal scheme.



Vegetable growing is a very useful and profit[illegible] project in which every member of the Yuvak [illegible] Yuvati Dal participates. Seen in the centre [illegible] well constructed by the members through [illegible] own efforts.

Members of the Yuvak Mangal Dal holding a meeting.

A group of young members of the Mangal Dal seen amidst the vegetable plots in village Nangli Pati Ram.

Vol. III DECEMBER 1962 No. 9
AGRAHAYANA-1884

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LETTERS

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
359
17 DEC 1962
KOVILPATTI
RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friend,

THE V.L.W.'s *Prize Competition Scheme was introduced with a view to provide an incentive for greater and sustained efforts on the part of V.L.Ws. Recently, we have received some letters from our correspondents criticising the scheme as defective. One correspondent has gone so far as to suggest that the scheme did provide some encouragement in the initial stages but it no longer holds out any interest for them. We would welcome your views on the subject. If the scheme no longer inspires the V.L.Ws., we would like to know why it does not do so? Please send your suggestions so that it could be modified and improved upon accordingly.*

Yours Sincerely,
The Editor.

* * *

ALL GAINS BUT NO STAKES

Sir,

A VILLAGE panchayat in Mysore met to discuss about the construction of a culvert, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,500. It was decided to give the contract to 'A'. At the same meeting, another person 'B' came forward to undertake its construction for Rs. 3,000. The President along with some other members of the Panchayat wanted to give the contract to 'B' because in that case there was a saving of Rs. 500. But the Extension Officer present at the meeting got a resolution passed by a majority vote of 7 to 4, and the contract was given to 'A' in whom the official was interested.

The official cannot be brought to book because he gets away by saving that it was a majority decision of the Panchayat and that he had nothing to do with it. Previously, if such an irregular thing were committed by an official he could be put on the mat but nothing can be done now under the canopy of the Panchayati Raj set-up. Indeed the more intelligent and cunning amongst the officials are able to get things done in their own way by wire-pulling in the Panchayats. They know that so long as they can humour the men in power in the Panchayati Raj bodies, they can do whatever they please. These officials have all gains but no stakes.

22-7-1962
BELLARY,
Mysore State.

Yours etc.
H. Virupaksha Gond.

The officials under Panchayati Raj are expected to play the role of a guide and a teacher. In order that they

might not misuse their official position, it is essential that the members of the Panchayat should be aware of their duties and responsibilities and above all the Gaon Sabha as a whole should exercise a healthy controlling influence on the Panchayat—Ed.

* * *

PANCHAYATI RAJ IN KERALA

Sir,

ASSURANCE is being held out that 'Panchayati Raj' will be ushered in Kerala soon. Ever since the scheme was first launched in Rajasthan three years ago, it has raised great hopes in the minds of the people here as in any other part of the country. However, we have our fears too.

It is an established fact that the social atmosphere in Kerala is rife with party politics. There is politics in everything that one does here,—be it social welfare, or development work. The working of National Extension Service Blocks at present clearly goes to show how far politics has entered them. As the members of the Block Advisory Boards belong to various political parties, they pull in different directions. This renders the working of the Block Development Officer or the Extension Staff very difficult.

In Kerala, there are wheels within wheels. One shudders to think what would happen when Panchayati Raj which is based on elections through party system comes into being. Party factions are bound to be aggravated. Although I am not against the introduction of Panchayati Raj in the State, I do want proper safeguards to be provided against the evil effects of party politics. The powers and duties of the President of the Panchayats and Development Officers should be clearly demarcated so that neither of them is allowed to become a weather cock, moving according to the whims of the political parties. Conditions should be created for the election of Panchayat President on a non-party basis so that after he is elected, he is induced to act in the best interests of the community as a whole irrespective of his party affiliations. I hope the authorities will heed these dangers and provide proper safeguards.

30-9-62 Yours etc.
Trichur-4 C. D. Johny
Kerala.

* * * *

TRAINING THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI MEMBERS

Sir,

I HAVE been associated with the training of the members of the Panchayat Samitis for some time past. I have a few observations to make in order to improve the present system of training.

Generally, the lecture-cum-discussion method is followed in the training centres. Practical experience has, however, shown that this is not necessarily the best method in all circumstances. At times when the trainees are not well-informed, they hesitate to put questions and therefore, they do not benefit to the fullest extent possible. In such circumstances, the conventional method of lecturing is best suited.

Visits to model villages, panchayats and co-operatives are very useful. But it becomes difficult to arrange visits because these places may not be situated at short distances from the Centre. The Training Centre may not have a vehicle which can accommodate about forty to fifty trainees at a time. A larger budget should be allotted so that conveyance could be hired for the purpose.

It is suggested that the member trainees should be given advance intimation so that they could free themselves from their responsibilities at home and join the course in time. At present many of them come late and some join when half the period of the training is over. The late-comers find it difficult to be accepted as members of the class and even if they are admitted they are not able to catch up with the discussion in the classes.

It is desirable that the member-trainees in a course should come from only one category of Block i.e. either pre-extension, or 1st stage or 2nd stage. The homogeneous character of the group has obvious advantages from the point of view of training.

(Continued on page 20)

Nehru's Call To Nation*

Comrades, Friends and Fellow-countrymen!

I AM speaking to you on the radio after a long interval. I feel, however, that I must speak to you about the grave situation that has arisen on our frontiers because of continuing and unabashed aggression by the Chinese forces.

A situation has arisen which calls upon all of us to meet it effectively. We are men and women of peace in this country conditioned to the ways of peace. We are unused to the necessities of war. Because of this, we endeavoured to follow a policy of peace even when aggression took place on our territory in Ladakh five years ago. We explored avenues for an honourable settlement by peaceful methods.

That was our policy all over the world, and we tried to apply it even in our own country. We know the horrors of war in this age today, and we have done our utmost to prevent war from engulfing the world.

But all our efforts have been in vain in so far as our own frontier is concerned, where a powerful and unscrupulous opponent, not caring for peace or peaceful methods, has continuously threatened us and even carried these threats into action. The time has, therefore, come for us to realize fully this menace that threatens the freedom of our people and the independence of our country.

WE WILL SUCCEED

I say so even though I realize that no power can ultimately imperil the freedom we have won at so much sacrifice and cost to our people after long ages of foreign domination. But, to conserve that freedom and integrity of our territory, we must gird up our loins and face this greatest menace that has come to us since we became independent. I have no doubt in my mind that we shall succeed. Everything else is secondary to the freedom of our people and of our motherland and if necessary everything else has to be sacrificed in this great crisis.

I do not propose to give you the long history of continuous aggression by the Chinese during the last five years and how they have tried to justify it by speeches, arguments and the repeated assertion of untruths and a campaign of calumny and vituperation against our country.

Perhaps there are not many instances in history where one country, that is India, has gone out of her way to be friendly and co-operative with the Chinese Government and people and to plead their cause in the councils of the world, and then for the Chinese Government to return evil for good and even go to the extent of committing aggression and invade our sacred land. No self-respecting country, and certainly not India with her love of freedom, can submit to this, whatever the consequences may be.

There have been five years of continuous aggression on the Ladakh frontier. Our other frontier at NEFA remained largely free from this aggression. Just when we were discussing ways and means of reducing tension, and there was even some chance of the representatives of the two countries meeting to consider this matter, a new and fresh aggression took place on the NEFA border.

This began on September 8 last. This was a curious way of lessening tension. It is typical of the way the Chinese Government have treated us.

Our border with China in the NEFA region is well known and well established from ages past. It is sometimes called the McMahon Line. But this line which separates India from Tibet was the high ridges which divide the watersheds.

This has been acknowledged as the border by history, tradition and treaties long before it was called the McMahon Line. The Chinese have in many ways

acknowledged it as the border, even though they have called the McMahon Line illegal.

The Chinese laid claim in their maps, to a large part of NEFA which has been under our administration for a long time. The present Chinese regime was established about 12 years ago. Before that the Tibetans did not challenge it. Even the maps that the Chinese produced were acknowledged by them repeatedly to be old and out-of-date maps which had little relevance today.

Yet, on this peaceful border where no trouble or fighting had occurred for a long time, they committed aggression and this also in very large numbers and after vast preparations for a major attack.

TRIBUTE TO TROOPS

I am grieved at the setback to our troops that has occurred on this frontier and the reverses we have had. They were overwhelmed by vast numbers and big artillery, mountain guns and heavy mortars which the Chinese forces have brought with them. I should like to pay a tribute to our officers and men who faced these overwhelming numbers with courage. There may be some more reverses in that area. But one thing is certain—that the final result of this conflict will be in our favour. It cannot be otherwise when a nation like India fights for her freedom and the integrity of the country.

We have to meet a powerful and unscrupulous opponent. We have, therefore, to build up our strength and power to face this situation adequately and with confidence.

The conflict may continue for long. We must prepare ourselves for it mentally and otherwise. We must have faith in ourselves, and I am certain that that faith and our preparation will triumph. No other result is conceivable. Let there be this faith and fixed determination to free our country from the aggressor.

What then are we to do about it? We must steel our wills and direct the nation's energy and resources to this one end. We must change our procedures from slow-moving methods of peacetime to those that produce results quickly. We must build up our military strength by all means at our disposal.

INCREASING PRODUCTION

But military strength is not by itself enough. It has to be supported fully by the industry of the nation and by increasing our production in every way that is necessary for us. I would appeal to all our workers not to indulge in strikes or in any other way which comes in the way of increasing production. That production has to be not only in the factory, but in the field. No anti-national or anti-social activities can be tolerated when the nation is in peril.

We shall have to carry a heavy burden, all of us, whatever our vocations may be. The price of freedom will have to be paid in full measure and no price is too great for the freedom of our people and of our motherland.

I earnestly trust and I believe that all parties and groups in the country will unite in this great enterprise and put aside their controversies and arguments which have no place today, and present a solid united front before all those who seek to endanger our freedom and integrity.

PURCHASE OF BONDS

The burden on us is going to be great. We must add greatly to our savings by the purchase of bonds to help to finance production and meet the increasing cost of national defence. We must prevent any rise in prices, and we must realize that those who seek to profit at a time of national difficulty are anti-national and injure the nation.

We are in the middle of our Third Five Year Plan. There can be no question of our giving up this plan or reducing any important element of it. We may adapt it to the new requirements here and there. But, essentially, the major projects of the Plan must be pursued and implemented because it is in that way that we shall strengthen our country not only in the present crisis but in the years to come.

There are many other things that our people can do, and I hope to indicate some of them at a later stage.

(*Continued on page 20*)

SAHARA—*THE VILLAGE OF THE YOUTH*

THE FUTURE of Panchayati Raj, as indeed of the nation as a whole, lies in the hands of the youth. A lot depends on how we train them and offer them an opportunity to develop into disciplined and responsible citizens. Of late, we have been hearing a lot about the growing frustration and indiscipline amongst our students. The educational authorities and the administrators no less than the parents themselves are worried over the problem. They are looking around for a solution.

The simple and unsophisticated people of village Sahara, about ten miles from Agra, seem to have found the key to the proper development of youth. Of course, they got the guidance from the Community Development Department. They are transforming the lives of their young boys and girls through the Yuvak and Yuvati Mangal Dals. I had heard about the U.P. Government's Yuvak Mangal Dal scheme before but I had to wait to see for myself its healthy effects upon the young community till I visited this place last month.

Sahara may aptly be called the village of the youth where the young boys and girls vie with each other in proving their worth to their families as well as the community. The Panchayat and the elderly people are taking great interest in the furtherance of the activities of the Yuvak and Yuvati Mangal Dals in the village. All these factors have helped the Yuvak Mangal Dal to earn the title of 'Karam Vir Dhwaj', as being the best Youth Club in the district.

As our jeep entered the village, I was agreeably surprised to see that the usual clustering of the young children round the jeep was conspicuously absent. I was later informed that as a result of the healthy influence of the Mangal Dal, no child tried to run after the jeep as and when it came to the village. Instead, their young leader Prem Singh, a lad of sixteen years along with the Pradhan and a few other elderly people of the village were there to receive us. He led us to the one-acre plot on the outskirt of the village where the members of the Yuvak and Yuvati Dal were working in their respective plots. The Panchayat had offered this piece of land to the members of the Yuvak and Yuvati Mangal Dal to grow vegetables. Every member had been allotted a few square yards in which he or she grew vegetables for his or her family. The young members tended the plot under his or her charge with great interest and care. The promise of a few cauliflowers, tomatoes or any other vegetable was enough inducement to keep them busy in kitchen-gardening. On return from the school, they would spend most of their leisure time in watering the plants. This kept them fully occupied and they had little time to think of mischief or to do any other undesirable piece of work. Instead their energies had been harnessed to useful and productive purposes.

There was also a common vegetable plot which was attended to by all the members of the club by turns. The sale proceeds of vegetables from this plot had given an income of Rs. 600 to the club during the last Rabi season.

In the centre of the vegetable plots, there stood a 20 ft. high 'Kothi' or the masonry structure of a well dug by the members of the Dal. This would be sunk in a month or so when they would have a pacca well for irrigating their vegetable plots. Incidentally, this is the first and only well of sweet water in the village. The elders of the village are greatly beholden to the youngsters for having made available to them a well of sweet water suitable for drinking purposes. Prem Singh, leader of the youth club informed me how they had dug through shramdan two kacha wells before they got the present one with sweet water. The villagers pleased with their efforts, gave them Rs. 400 for making the well pacca. "To construct

Prem Singh, leader of the Yuvak Mangal Dal, Sahara, seen standing outside the office of the Mangal Dal.

a pacca well", he said, "the services of masons having specialised experience of the job are required. We, therefore, engaged two masons but they left the work in the middle. However, we were not deterred by this. One member of the youth club undertook to do the job. And so you see, we have completed it at last."

While we were thus talking, Jagdish, a sixteen year old boy, a member of the youth club, came along with a beautiful deer-like goat with its two kids. The goat was of the 'Barbari' breed, yielding two seers of milk every day. The rearing of goats, being a very profitable project was encouraged by the youth club amongst its members. Apart from yielding milk, the goat gave birth to two kids every six month. These kids were very much in demand and could be sold for Rs. 35 each. Every member was thus able to earn Rs. 140 every year from the sale of kids alone. The project was started only an year ago when 3 goats were purchased. It has proved so successful that today there are sixteen goats in the whole village.

Two members of the club have recently purchased Hariyana cows on subsidised rates from the Animal Husbandry department under the calf-rearing project. The calves will be purchased by the department for purposes of breeding.

The youth club has a membership of 36. I had an opportunity to meet them along with the members of the Panchayat and some elderly people of the village in a meeting in the office of the club. The office was well furnished with durries, carpets requisite furniture and a petromax.

In one corner was a community listening set which had been entrusted to the club by the panchayat. The secretary of the club looked after it and operated it for purposes of the evening news for the benefit of the village community. The club had a small library from which books were regularly issued to the members. On my inquiry, a member told me that he had read 4 books in a year and he was able to give me a gist of what he had learnt from them. It was interesting to note that there were also a few illiterate members of the club. Chander Bhan was one of them. I asked him if he had gained anything by becoming the member of the club. He replied, "A lot, sir. I have learnt to grow vegetables and to do farming according to improved practices. I have done the entire sowing in my fields by dibbling method." It was obvious that he had learnt how to sit and talk in meetings. His knowledge of day-to-day events in the country and the work had increased as a result of his listening to the radio daily and participating in the monthly meetings of the club. I felt this was the real social education and not mere literacy that was needed to be imparted to the people.

The youth club had a set of musical instruments of its own and it organised dramas and other recreational programmes in the village on important occasions. The members also took keen interest in various games and helped to organise tournaments at the Block and District levels.

What impressed me was the systematic way in which the club meetings were held and conducted regularly every month. A proper record was maintained of the minutes of the meeting and the decisions taken. Each member had a short notebook in which he maintained an account of the income and expenditure of the various economic projects they had undertaken. This is what Jagdish read out from the pages of his note-book: "During one year the income from kitchen-gardening is Rs. 30; from milk of Hariyana cow Rs. 300; from the milk of Barbari goat Rs. 110 and from the sale of 2 kids of goat Rs. 70—in all Rs. 510." Not a bad bargain this from any

point of view! When one compares their orderly way of conducting meetings, discussing matters and keeping up-to-date accounts with what our elders do in the Panchayats, one cannot but appreciate the splendid work that the Mangal Dals are doing.

NURSERIES OF LEADERSHIP

They are the nurseries of future Panchayati Raj leadership. When the youth club members grow up and are called upon to assume the role of village leaders, they are bound to perform their duties more efficiently and conscientiously. This observation of mine was corroborated by the fact that an erstwhile Mangal Dal leader of a nearby village Dahtora was unanimously elected Pradhan who had been acquitting himself to the fullest satisfaction of the village.

With a view to reassure myself, I asked the elderly persons and the Panchayat members present in the meeting as to their impressions about the working of the youngsters. Everyone was full of praise for their spirit of service and hard work. An old man got up and said that prior to the introduction of the scheme of Mangal Dal, the young boys used to roam about in the streets and they often quarrelled among themselves, but now they were too occupied in one pursuit or the other to indulge in those rowdy things. Another person said, "My young son who is a member of the youth club has proved a helping hand to me. He supplies us from the kitchen-garden all the vegetables we need for the family. Previously we seldom took vegetables. Now our food habits have changed. Besides, as a result of his active interest in calf-rearing and goat-rearing, not only do we get enough milk to drink but there has been a sizable increase in the family income." Sixty year old Babu Lal thought that the influence of the Mangal Dal on the minds and ways of working of the village people was much deeper in as much as a large number of the cultivators had been influenced by the example of the young members who had adopted improved farming practices. It was pointed out how the idea of having concreted cattle mangers had spread to the whole village after a few Mangal Dal members had taken to it first. It was now the turn of the Pradhan of the village who said, "The Youth Club has been sharing with the Panchayat a great part of its burden of social activities. The young boys have been helping not only in the food production drive but also in the cleanliness of the village twice a month, running literacy centres and organising cultural programme for the recreation of the villagers." But it was Shri S. S. Bhadoria, the principal of the Gram Sevak Training Centre, Bichpuri with whom the youngsters had become extremely intimate and he was perhaps reaping the fullest advantage from the youth club. To him it served as a forum for extension training. He would bring his trainees to this village off and on and try to impress on them what a model youth club should be like. Here he had an opportunity for holding up not only a Yuvak Dal as a model but an equally effective Yuvati Dal, too. The members of the Yuvati Dal participated in kitchen-gardening and improved farming practices along with the Yuvaks. During their spare hours, they would come to the Yuvati Dal centre to learn knitting, sewing and weaving of carpets and durries. Shrimati Viramati was their leader. Though she still observed pardah, this did not deter her from doing social work in the village and outside. In fact, as a result of her active social work she had been nominated as a member of the Panchayat Samiti. Here is a village where the youths of both sexes are on the move—Ed.

Shrimati Viramati, leader of the Yuvati Mangal Dal, Sahara, who is also a member of the Block Panchayat Samiti.

SERVICES' ROLE UNDER PANCHAYATI RAJ

Shri V. T. Krishnamachari, Member of Rajya Sabha and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has made some very important recommendations to improve the District Administration in his Report entitled, "Indian and State Administrative Services and Problems of District Administration". Below we give a gist of these recommendations in so for as they have a bearing on Panchayati Raj.—**Ed.**

DISCUSSING the issues arising from the introduction of democratic institution at various levels, Shri Krishnamachari says that there are two points which are of cardinal importance in democratic planning. The first is that no plan can have any chance of success unless the millions of small farmers in the country accept its objectives, share in its making, regard it as their own and are prepared to make the sacrifices necessary for implement ing it. The second important factor is that the extension agency will cease to command confidence unless it can assist every family for production programme.

BUILDING UP PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

At the present stage of development it is specially necessary that village panchayats, panchayat samitis and zila parishads should be built up as institutions carrying out the policies embodied in the Plan and laid down by State Governments with the approval of State Legislatures and implementing the programmes in the respective areas with the maximum co-operation of the people. The democratic structure in the district could be built on the foundation of the village panchayat and the village co-operative, and democratic institutions at the district, block and village levels should form a connected structure of administration.

While overall responsibilities of administration, finance and planning would continue to vest in the State, the responsibility for local planning and implementation should devolve on democratic bodies within the district. The State Five Year Plans as well as the Annual Plan should be broken into district and block plans and in relation to these each village should have its own development plan. The starting point is the village plan. This should be prepared after detailed discussions with the people and the panchayats and co-operatives.

The Report emphasises that it is essential to the success of Panchayati Raj that the taxation powers conferred on panchayat samitis and on zila parishads should be utilised for mobilising local resources to a greater extent than has been possible so far.

Implementation of legislation for betterment levy has been very slow and laws defining other obligations have been enacted only in a few States. The result is that the facilities provided remain unused over fairly long periods. Legal provision should be made so that where beneficiaries fail to carry out the works in time, the panchayats should carry them out and realise the cost; where village panchayats do not act speedily, the Government or on its behalf the panchayat samiti should arrange for execution, the cost being recovered eventually from the beneficiaries.

An important test of the success of Panchayati Raj institutions should be the measure in which, consciously and systematically, they promote the welfare of the weaker sections of the rural community by sustained efforts at all levels to encourage labour co-operatives, provide house sites for the smaller holders and landless workers, and expand subsidiary and other employment in the village.

It is expected that in all States, co-operative move-

ment would be developed sufficiently to undertake responsibility for disbursing all loans at the end of the Third Plan period. For recovery of the loans, States and Panchayats should review the working of the rules and make such changes as might be called for from time to time.

ROLE OF OFFICERS

The block development officers and the technical specialists at the block level should function together as a well-knit team to assist and advise the Panchayat Samiti and its standing committee in working out technically sound block and village plans and to execute these efficiently and impartially in accordance with the laws and rules. The responsibilities of officials have to be clearly defined and enforced.

Regarding duties of district level officials, the Report says that their primary responsibility should be to assist zila Parishad, the panchayat samitis and the block development officers; supervise their execution from administrative and technical points of view and to co-ordinate action in different blocks within the district. The Zila Parishads should see that the works are distributed equitably and the special needs of backward areas are recognised.

TRAINING AND PROMOTION

There should be canons laid down for objective assessment of the work of officers and promotion should depend on efficiency and integrity. There should be an uninterrupted claim of responsibility in administrative and technical matters reaching down to the village units. In particular, there should be no ambiguity about the obligation that rests on higher technical officers to guide and supervise the work of officials at lower levels.

Shri Krishnamachari feels that State Governments should reorganise agricultural, animal husbandry and co-operative services. Top posts in agriculture should be held by technical officers and promising young IAS and State Officers should be selected for co-operative services.

He wants urgent action to be taken on the following matters :

(1) reducing the frequency of transfers to the absolute minimum to enable administrative and technical officers to stay in their positions for long periods,

(2) ensuring sustained touring by those officers in the rural areas so that they can get to know the villagers and their problems intimately, and

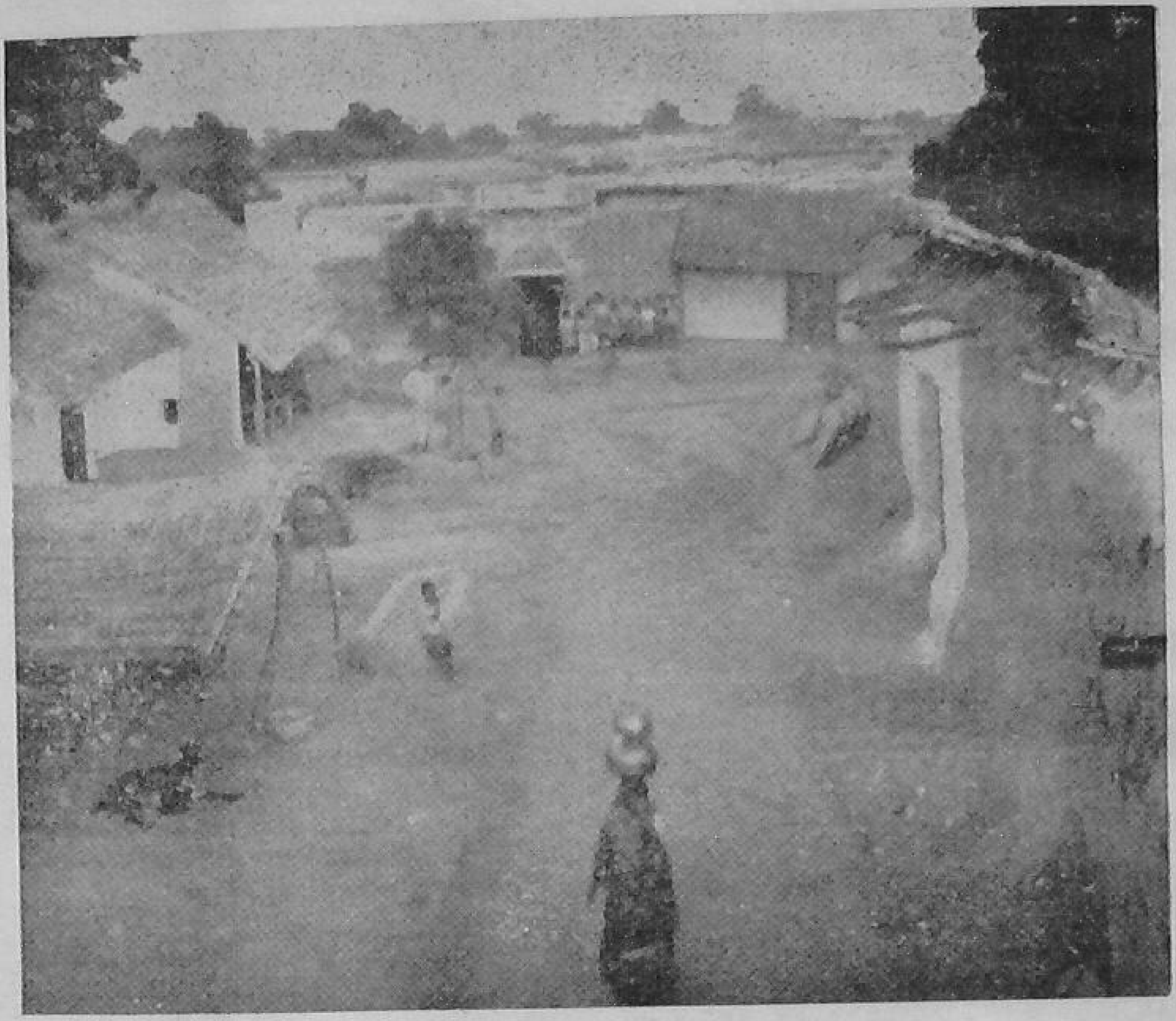
(3) scrutinising the elaborate registers, reports and returns prescribed for villages, blocks and districts with a view to reduce correspondence and paper work.

Shri Krishnamachari has also made recommendation about the training of I.A.S. Officers in the National Academy of Administration. It has been suggested that visits to one or two rural development centres and study in the Planning Commission for two or three days should be included in the programme of "Bharat Darshan".

With regard to probationary training in the States, he recommends that the period of training should be fixed at 18 months and a probationer should be enabled to learn important branches of work like revenue, survey and settlement, treasury work and community development by holding the concerned posts. They should work as additional B.D.Os for three months. All sub-divisional officers should be actively associated with the community development programme.

SARSA—*COUNTRY'S BEST VILLAGE*

It is just a coincidence that Sarsa, India's best village this year happens to be situated close to the historical monument of 'Buland Darvaza' of Fatehpur Sikri in Agra district. While the latter epitomises the conquest of the Deccan by Emperor Akbar, the former symbolises conquest in the field of development.



A frontview of village Sarsa.

To a visitor, it may not be a case of 'love at first sight' for this village. The heaps of dung and rubbish and the pool without any proper embankment containing dirty water for the cattle, will not offer him a welcome sight. And even if he goes round the whole village, he is not likely to come across anything impressive. There are about half a dozen alleys leading into the village but not one of them goes through. After reaching the middle of the village, he is faced with a blind alley and has to turn back in order to be able to proceed further,—a typical example of unplanned growth of villages in the past. Barring one or two streets, the rest are yet to be paved. More than 90% of the three hundred and odd houses are kacha. The dilapidated condition of several houses, with the mud plaster falling off and the inadequately equipped household leave no one in doubt about the poverty of the people. Even the primary school building is in a tottering condition. The Panchayat has not had enough money to carry out the repairs. The Youth Club and Mahila Mandal exist but in name only.

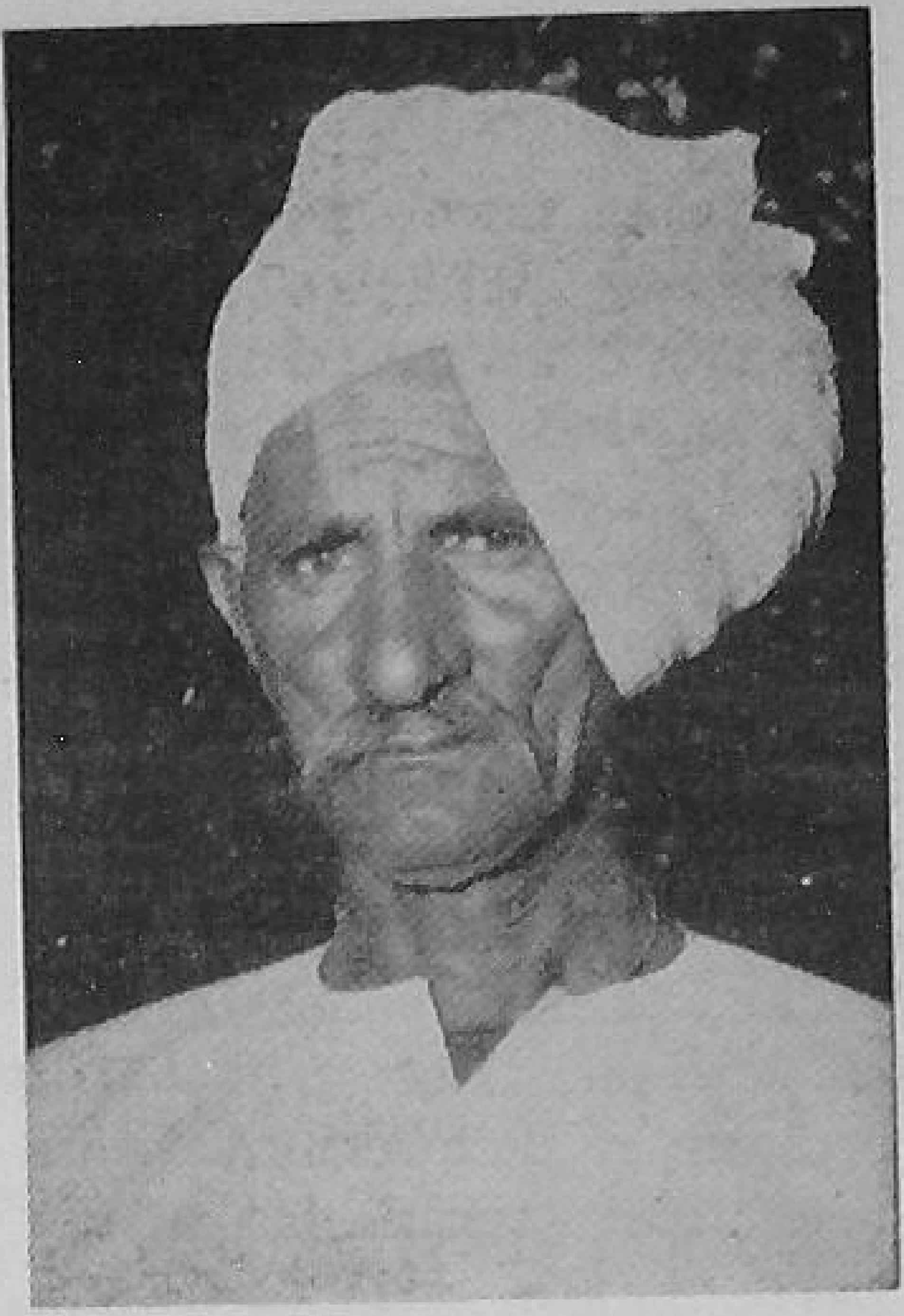
With so much on the debit side, one may well ask what is there after all which has earned for it the title of the 'Best Village'. To be able to understand that one has to go out into the vast open fields where the battle of increased food production was fought and won. The one thousand and odd acres of cultivable land yielded 39 mds. of wheat per acre on an average last year. As I talked to the farmers and happened to attend the Panchayat meeting to which Pradhans from the neighbouring villages had also been specially invited, the story of their splendid achievement gradually unfolded itself to me. The path to their outstanding success lay through hard work, co-operative efforts of the village community as a whole and the harmonious working relationship between the officials and the non-officials.

KEEN COMPETITION

Last year village Arhera about one mile away from here, had established a record average production of 35 mds. of wheat per acre for the village as a whole. As a result of this achievement,

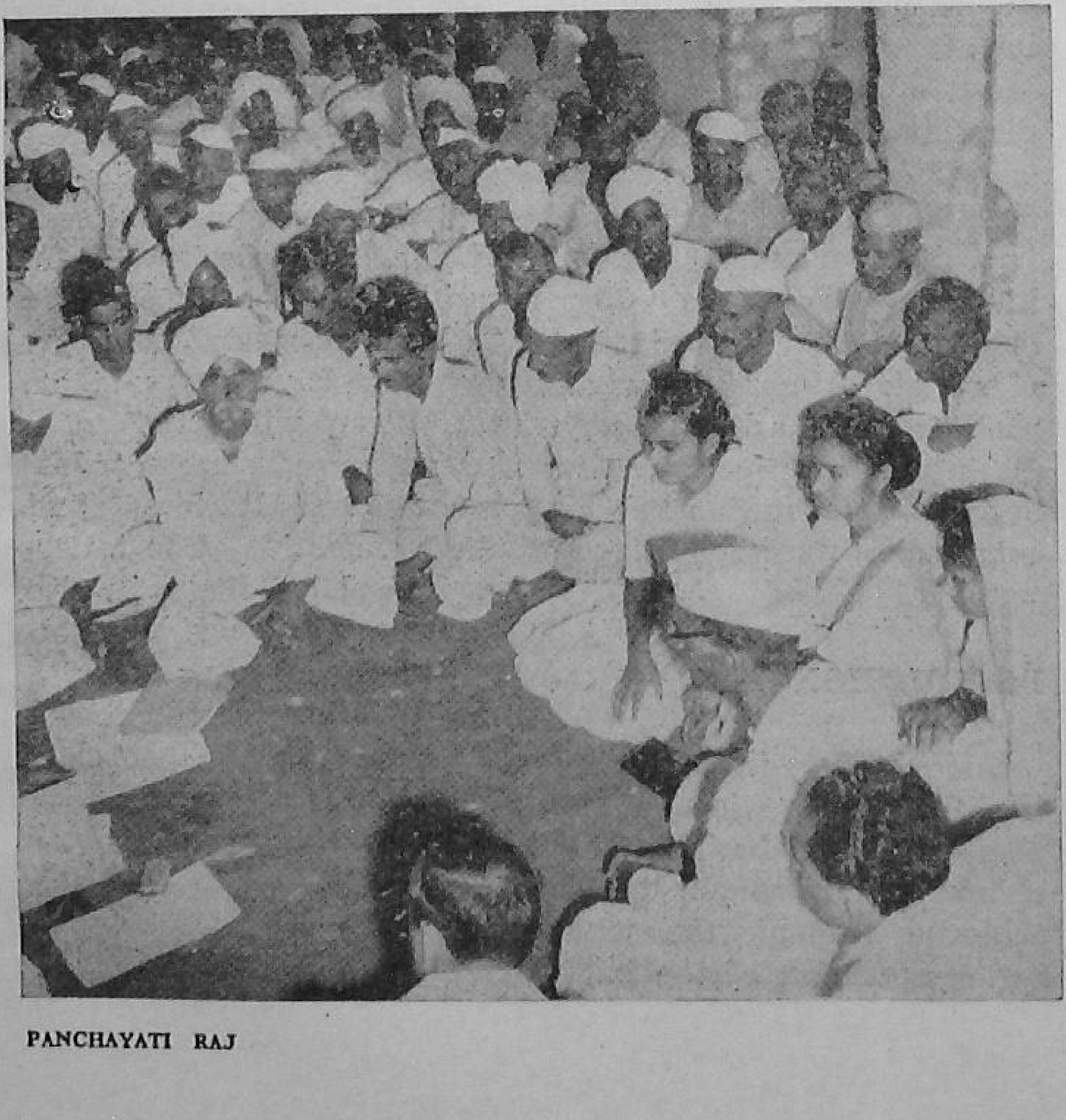
Shri Nathi Singh Pradhan had been honoured with the title of 'Padma Shri'. This had fired the imagination of many villages in the neighbourhood and they began to vie with each other in excelling the achievement of Arhera. Challenges and counter-challenges for increased agricultural production were flung at each other. By mobilising all its available resources of men and material, village Sarsa succeeded in outbidding Arhera's achievement of the previous year.

How surcharged the atmosphere in this part of the countryside is with the keen desire on the part of the village Panchayats to outbid each other in food production, became clear to me the moment I joined the meeting of Panchayat Sarsa. Pradhans of the neighbouring villages of Rajholi and Arhera were also present in that meeting. Basti Ram Pradhan of Sarsa Panchayat moved the resolution, "It is a matter of gratification that our village has been adjudged the best in the country. Our average production of wheat per acre was the highest last year. We propose to raise it still higher this year so as to reach 40 mds. per acre. I appeal that our cultivators should offer their fullest cooperation in this respect. We challenge the other villages to show better results." The resolution had hardly been



Basti Ram Pradhan.

Village Panchayat Sarsa holding a session. Other adult persons of the village have also joined the meeting.



passed when the seventy year old Pradhan of village Rajholi could not contain himself and remarked, "My village has already decided to set up a record food production this year, and I accept your challenge gladly." Shri Bhikhi Ram, Pradhan of village Arhera was keeping mum over the issue. But Padmashri Nathi Singh who as Pradhan of that village year before last had organised a record output of food production said, "My village refuses to accept any but the first position. It has done so in the past and will continue to do so in the future." "But your village was beaten last year by Sarsa", said I. He snapped back, "Who says so ? The Agricultural Department did not arrange to carry out the crop competition programme in our village even though we had earlier made a request for the same. Sarsa got the first place because Arhera was

not in the picture." I could not help expressing my sympathy towards him because his village had been relegated to secondary position for no fault of theirs. The Block Development Officer encouraged him by saying that village Arhera would not be overlooked this time and that they should retrieve the lost position now. The cause of the outstanding success of village Sarsa soon became clear to me. I realised that it was out of such a competitive spirit and keen desire on the part of the various Gaon Sabhas to outbid each other that the good result had been achieved.

Basti Ram Pradhan of village Sarsa is a man of few words but he has a firm will and he throws himself heart and soul into the work he takes upon himself. Therefore, when this decision to grow record production of wheat was taken last year, he took it up in all seriousness. He went ahead with the work of enlisting the co-operation of all the cultivators in the village and of making available in time all necessary supplies of fertilisers, seeds and improved implements. He got full co-operation from the President of the Co-operative Society in preparing the village producduction plan and securing the supplies in time. He exercised his personal influence to secure the requisite supplies for some of this fellow villagers who were too poor to purchase them on cash payment. By enlisting the co-operation of the Gram Sahayaks, he arranged for all the cultivators to be initiated into the techniques of improved farming like dibbling etc. His whole time was spent in organising the campaign. As a result of this preoccupation, his own crop suffered. But he did not mind. He got full co-operation from the Block officials. In order that the Gram Sevak Jitmal Verma might be in a better position to render them assistance, he offered him a room in his own house to reside.

The whole village responded enthusiastically to these efforts for more food production. Everyone of the 217 cultivators in the village used improved seed, green manure and chemical manure. They prepared the land for sowing with great effort, by tilling it eight to ten times. Most of them took to the dibbling method. More than sixty per cent of the cultivable land was brought under irrigation. As a result of these intensive efforts, the village achieved record production of wheat. Almost the whole produce was sold through the marketing society. The Service Co-operative has no outstanding dues against any member.

PRODUCTION—THE PRIORITY

Undoubtedly, in so far as the food production on a planned village basis is concerned and is sought to be achieved through the willing co-operation of the individual cultivators helped and guided by the Panchayat and the Co-operative, Sarsa has set up a unique record. This splendid example is required to be repeated all over the lacs of villages in order to solve the food problem satisfactorily. The selection of this village as the best in the country for which it has been awarded a prize of Rs. 5,000, is a recognition of the priority that food production has got in the Community Development Programme. Amenities programme is no doubt desirable and has its own place but it is food production which is fundamental and crucial to all development. Village Sarsa, though poor at present and lacks even the basic amenities of life, is bound to come up in the years to come through its wisely pursued production programme. It is waging a gallant fight against poverty and backwardness in which it has long been steeped. The signs of its rising prosperity are already visible. A majority of the residents of the village used to be in perpetual debt. Today they have cleared them all. Soon will rise pacca houses, paved streets, public bath-rooms, latrines and other amenities. The tottering school building will also be no more. They have already decided to construct a new building for the school and a Panchayat Ghar close to it at a cost of Rs. 15,000 this year.—**Ed.**

IN DEFENCE OF MOTHERLAND

THE ROHTAK Zila Parishad has donated Rs. 2 lakhs for the National Defence Fund.

* * *

Alipur Block Samiti in Delhi has contributed Rs. 2,500 as the first instalment to the National Defence Fund.

* * *

The Nilokheri Panchayat Samiti in the Punjab has decided to raise at least one and half lakh of rupees as their contribution towards the Defence Fund. The Panchayati Samiti members have voluntarily agreed to forego their T.A. or D.A. received by them for attending meetings and the amount thus saved would be contributed to the Defence Fund. The staff of the Panchayat Samiti, including the co-operative staff have contributed their one day's salary to the National Defence Fund.

* * *

The Staff and Members of Zila Parishad, Dungarpur in Rajasthan have contributed their one day's salary and allowances. The members, teachers and staff of the Panchayat Samiti, Bikaner have also donated their one day's pay. Similar amounts have been contributed by Pradhan, members and staff of Panchayat Samiti, Jahajpur. The officers and staff of the Collectorate and other District-level offices have also made a voluntary offer to contribute their one day's salary for the welfare fund. Panchayat Samiti, Karanpur of Shri Ganganagar District has also contributed one day's pay of their staff and members.

* * *

The staff of Srikaranpur Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan contributed their one day's salary for the welfare of our fighting forces. The Makrana Panchayat Samiti in Nagaur district has likewise donated one day's pay of the staff for the Jawans.

* * *

National Defence Fund

IT IS our sacred duty to contribute to the National Defence Fund as much cash, gold or ornaments as we can spare. This is necessary in order to supplement the heroic efforts being made by our Jawans on the borders to throw back the Chinese aggressors.

It is heartening to see that there has been a spontaneous response from the people and generous officers of help are pouring in from the rich and the poor alike.

Our Panchayats are also doing their mite. Those that have not contributed so far should raise the maximum contributions from amongst the people and remit it to the National Defence Fund as early as possible. Please send us the information regarding the amount contributed so that we could publish the same in the columns of this journal.

Please note that your contributions do reach the proper place and are not misappropriated by bogus collectors who are reported to be at large. These are the places where you should deposit money and gold :

1. Offices of the Reserve Bank of India conducting Government treasury business;
2. All branches of the State Bank of India and its subsidiaries (State banks of Hyderabad, Bikaner, Indore, Jaipur, Mysore, Travancore, Saurashtra and Patiala).

Cash money can be deposited in all the post offices also.

Small contributions of the value of rupees one and above for the National Defence Fund can be remitted by money order payable to the Reserve Bank of India (National Defence Fund), New Delhi, without payment of money order fee—Ed.

WOOLLENS FOR JAWANS WANTED

There is an urgent necessity of woollen clothing such as coats, scarfs, gloves, socks, etc. for our Jawans serving in border areas. Organisations and individuals who wish to donate warm clothing and gifts for our Jawans, are requested to send them to Smt. Thapar, c/o Army Wives Welfare Association, Defence Headquarters, P.O. New Delhi-11. It will be preferable if such clothing is of olive green colour.

No. 99

Community on the Move

LAND DONATED FOR SCHOOL GARDENING

Shri Chitikala Rama Murthy—the Donor of land.

THE EXPANDED Nutrition Programme in Jalluru village of Kotauratla Panchayat Samithi could not make further headway because the school did not have enough land for vegetable-growing and fruit-gardening. Everybody thought that the scheme had come to a dead end. But this stirred the heart of Shri Chitikala Rama Murthy, a small peasant of the village and he donated about one acre of land valued at Rs. 1,500 out of his total land of 4 acres for the purpose. The scheme is now being run smoothly for the benefit of the children.

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CHALLENGES AND COUNTER-CHALLENGE

VILLAGE BHAURI in Manikpur block of Banda District in U.P. won a prize of Rs. 500 in 1961 for producing 38.18 maunds of jowar per acre. Inspired by this achievement, Gaon Sabhas of Itwan Dudela, Ranipur, Nihin and Maraiyapan threw challenges this year for producing jowar upto 35 mds., 36 mds., 36 mds. and 37 mds. per acre respectively. The Gaon Sabha of Lodiya Mafi decided to produce 35 mds. of Bajra per acre. The Gaon Sabhas of Uchadod and Char decided to complete cent per cent soil conservation and contour-bunding. The Yuvak Mangal Dal (Youth club) at Aichwara has placed a target of the production of 1,000 mds. of vegetables and a kitchen-garden in each house. The Kshetra Samiti (at the Block level) set before itself the target of digging 500 compost pits, making all the school-building, pacca, planting 5,000 fruit trees, effecting cent per cent realisation of Taccavi loans and Panchayat dues and afforesting 158 acres of land.

* * *

SCHOOL-CHALO CAMPAIGN

DURING the last School-Chalo campaign observed in Shrimadhopur Panchayat Samiti in Sikar District of Rajasthan, about 1,259 students—983 boys and 276 girls—were enrolled in various primary schools in the samiti area. This has increased the total number of students on the roll of various primary schools from 3,405 to 4,644. Tangible success has been achieved in enrolling girl students whose number has increased almost hundred per cent.

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SAMITI MEMBERS SET GOOD EXAMPLE

MEMBERS OF the Bikaner Panchayat Samiti in Rajasthan have unanimously decided to contribute 25 per cent of the travelling allowance claimed by them for attending samiti meetings, to Small Savings Scheme.

* * *

FIRST IN SHRAMDAN FORTNIGHT

VILLAGE JAWASAYA was declared first in the "Shramdan" Fortnight competition arranged this year in the Badnawar Development Block of Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. During the fortnight, the village people constructed a causeway across a nullah to ease communication problem of the village. Every inhabitant of the village contributed his share of Rs. 11.53 in the shape of labour or material towards the construction of the causeway. A sum of Rs. 3,358 was spent by the villagers. In all 622 people offered 'shramdan' during the fortnight while 135 cartloads of boulders and 404 cartloads of bricks and sand were collected.

* * *

SCHOLARSHIP FOR GIRLS

FATEHPUR Panchayat Samiti of Sikar district in Rajasthan has decided to award scholarships to girls of primary schools in the Samiti area. This is an incentive to enable them to attend schools in larger numbers. Girls studying in first and second standards will get Rs. 6 per month, those in third and fourth standards Rs. 8 per month and students in fifth standard Rs. 9 per month.

* * *

THE RIGHT STEP

THE CONVERSION of handlooms to powerlooms has boosted the income of 17 families of weavers in Ujjain, in Madhya Pradesh. Now 21 power-driven looms owned by them produce 1,555 yards of cloth daily, as against 498 yards produced on 28 handlooms previously. This change has resulted in increased employment from 68 hands to 102 hands, as well as increased the income from Rs. 82 p.m. to Rs. 153 p.m. for every family. Many of these weavers have succeeded in paying off their loans and are now thinking of giving education to their children.

* * *

ALL PANCHAYAT SAMITHI VILLAGES ELECTRIFIED

RAYAVARAM Panchayat Samithi in Andhra Pradesh has made tremendous progress since it was constituted on 1st November, 1959. It has got all its 32 villages electrified. Consequent upon electrification, a large number of pumping sets have been installed for irrigation purposes. All the villagers are reported to have prepared their village agricultural production plans. As a result of various improved farming measures the yield of paddy per acre has gone up to 4,000 lbs. and of sugarcane to 50 tons. The Samithi has got 102 co-operative societies of different types functioning in various villages. The societies have about 26,000 members and a share-capital of over Rs. 4 lakhs. The Samithi is making progress in the field of education also because of compulsory education scheme being implemented in all the villages. However, the most significant achievement of the Panchayat Samithi is the levying and collection of various types of taxes to augment its income. It is understood that out of all the 31 panchayats in the Panchayat Samithi, five panchayats have collected cent per cent tax dues. 15 panchayats have collected more than 90% of the dues,—the average collection for all the panchayats being over 70%. Average income of each panchayat in the block varies from Rs. 2,500 to over Rs. 79,000. The phenomenal success of the Samithi is largely attributed to the cordial relations between the officials and non-officials of the block as well as the active willing co-operation of the people.

* * *

PANCHAYAT SAMITHI THAT EXCELS IN HEALTH PROGRAMME

DURING the short period of two years of its existence, Narsapur Panchayat Samithi in Andhra Pradesh has done considerable work in the field of health and sanitation. Its first achievement was the establishment of a Primary Health Centre at Madapada for which the villagers contributed Rs. 10,000 in cash and also donated two acres of land. The Panchayat Samithi has now organised a Medical and Health Co-operative Society at Doddipatla with a view to provide medical services for the members on a co-operative basis. The Society has already got 500 members. It proposes to enlist all the families of the three surrounding villages so that its membership will ultimately rise to 3,000. This is a pioneering adventure in the field of rural health and is being watched with considerable interest by outsiders.

* * *

KONDAPI PANCHAYAT SAMITHI FORGES AHEAD

DR. B. GOPALA REDDY, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting paid a visit to Kondapi Panchayat Samithi in Andhra Pradesh sometime ago and was much impressed by the spectacular progress made by the Samithi. He declared open a village library building constructed entirely through shramdan by the Yuvak Mandal at Bitragunta village. He also laid the foundation stone of a Community Hall at Kamepalli where a Primary Health Centre is already functioning. Later, he saw the huge building of the

(Continued on page 18)

AROUND THE STATES

GUJARAT

TRAINING IN PANCHAYATI RAJ

THE STATE Government have decided to give training to the officials and non-officials in Panchayati Raj in 6 phases. In the first and second phases of training lasting from 10th May to 8th June, the State had completed training of almost all the Block Development Officers.

* * *

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT REORGANISED

THE CO-OPERATIVE Department has been reorganised by amalgamating the money lending and the Co-operative Sections. The Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies and the District and Assistant District Registrars of Co-operative Societies have been appointed as the Registrars and Assistant Registrars of money lenders, respectively.

* * *

KERALA

CAMP FOR TRAINING YOUNG WORKERS

A STATE level camp for training young workers of the villages was held in one of the refresher training centres of the State during the June quarter. There was a stimulating exchange of views by the participants on the steps to be taken in strengthening the democratic institutions at the grass roots.

* * *

SAMMELANS FOR NON-OFFICIALS

THE STATE Government have formulated a proposal for holding Sammelans for non-officials at the State, District and Block levels. The main purpose of the Sammelans would be to assist the participants to develop a group sense and a constructive approach to national development and programme planning.

* * *

MANPOWER UTILISATION PROJECT

ONE PILOT project for utilising the unemployed labour was started in one of the blocks in Trivandrum, during June quarter. Labour intensive schemes like reformation and programmes relating to soil conservation are being implemented in the pilot project.

* * *

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

THE STATE Government issued necessary instructions to the Community Development Blocks to give a lead in organising and arranging as many cultural and recreational programmes as possible and asked them to give special encouragement to indigenous games and sports on such occasions.

* * *

MADHYA PRADESH

PANCHAYATI RAJ TRAINING COMPLETED

THE FIRST phase of Panchayati Raj Training Programme was inaugurated by holding a State level orientation and study camp for Commissioners, heads of development departments and Secretaries of the Government during the quarter ending June 1962. In the second phase of the training programme, 3 Panchayati Raj Orientation Camps, one at divisional headquarter and 2 at district level were organised in each of the 7 divisions of the State. The third and last phase of training programme of field level workers of the Government, Sarpanches and Panches was also successfully concluded for all Blocks of the State. About 3 lakh people participated in the various programmes.

* * *

TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONTEMPLATED

ARRANGEMENTS for the location of 3 new Panchayati Raj Training Centres at Raipur, Gwalior and Indore to be started during the current year have been finalised by the State Government.

It is proposed to organise 4 short training courses for Block Development Officers at Bhopal to impart training in administrative and accounts matters.

* * *

HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE received the highest priority in Madhya Pradesh. So far 3,495 village

plans have been prepared. The Kharif campaign was pursued vigorously. The consumption of fertilisers has received a great impetus as a result of the new distribution system evolved in the State.

* * *

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

THERE HAD been a spurt in the activity of organisation of youth clubs and farmers' unions during the quarter ending June 1962. The number of youth organisations had increased during the quarter as compared to the corresponding quarter of the last year, although the membership of these unions had not shown marked increase.

* * *

INTEGRATED CHILD WELFARE PROJECT

THE STATE Government have decided to locate the integrated child welfare project in Sehore Block. The necessary scheme has been finalised and sent to Ministry of Education, Government of India, for approval.

* * *

UTTAR PRADESH

ENCOURAGING PRODUCTION ASSETS

THE STATE Government have decided to advance loans for creation of productive assets to gaon sabhas such as the wells, ponds, guls, bandhies and drains for construction of houses for letting them on rent.

* * *

NOMINATION TO NYAYA PANCHAYATS

THE NOMINATION of Nyaya Panchayats is almost over in the State. Out of 55,350 panches, 51,928 have so far been nominated and nomination of other panches would be completed soon.

* * *

STUDY CAMPS

STUDY CAMPS were arranged to keep the Pradhans aware of the instructions issued earlier for improving the production of improved seeds. The gaon sabhas were also invited to extend their co-operation to the district agriculture staff to make 'Navin Beej Yojana" a success and also for successful implementation of the scheme of 'Yuvak Mangal Dal'.

* * *

TRAINING IMPARTED

73 PROGRESS Assistants were deputed to undergo training for a period of 3 months during July 1962.

12 meritorious Gram Sevaks were selected for a course of higher studies for a period of 2 years at Balwant Vidyapeth, Bichpuri, and Agriculture University Rudrapur (Nainital).

45 Panchayati Raj inspectors were sent in July 1962 for training in Orientation course of the Extension Officers for a period of 3 months at Bakshi Ka Talad. Also about 200 Panchayat Secretaries were sent to various training centres of V.L.Ws. for job training.

The State Government have suggested to the Panchayati Raj training Centres and District Planning Officers to organise fifty training camps of 3 days duration at Nyaya Panchayat level through peripatetic camps. Reports so far received indicate that these camps have been a great success.

18 Block Development Officers and 30 non-officials were deputed to attend second study course at Study and Orientation Centres, Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow, Nilokheri and Jabalpur with effect from 2nd August, 1962 to 22nd August, 1962.

* * *

DRIVE FOR TOP-DRESSING

THE STATE Government had organised a drive for top dressing of kharif crops with fertilizers in the State during August. The staff was instructed to convene meetings in every Block and enthuse gram sabha pradhans to organise the campaign.

* * *

CO-OPERATIVE CONVENTION

THE STATE Co-operative Convention was held at Lucknow in which over 8 thousand co-operators from all over the State took part. The Prime Minister also participated in the convention and praised the State Government for the progress made by it in the sphere of co-operative farming. He exhorted all concerned to lay stress on

the quality of co-operative movement and cautioned against too much official intervention in the interest of its sound growth.

* * *

M.Ps. VISIT CO-OPERATIVE FARMS

A TEAM of members of Parliament visited Gorakhpur and Deoria district on 18th and 19th July 1962 and visited some co-operative farming societies. They expressed satisfaction that the societies had been organised on right lines and were on the path to progress.

* * *

KEEPING MILK RECORDS

A SHORT-TERM training in keeping milk records was started at Chak Ganjia farm, Lucknow, for assessing the lactation yield of milch animals in Key Village areas.

* * *

WEST BENGAL

AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN

DURING the June 1962 quarter, the Block staff made all out efforts in implementing the kharif programme for increased agricultural production.

* * *

COMMUNICATION

SEVERAL villages in the State have volunteered to construct and renovate the roads. Nearly 527 miles of roads were constructed or renovated by the village community during the quarter ending June.

* * *

COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

(Continued from page 15)

High School at Muppavaram built with the help of generous donations by Shri Laxinarasaiah Naidu. At Devireddi Palem, he declared open an Elementary School building constructed by the villagers on 50% contribution basis, the remaining amount being given as grant by the State Government. The Minister expressed satisfaction at the efforts of the villagers to better their lot through the assistance of the Samithi. He visualised a bright future for the country through Panchayati Raj.

* * *

SOCIAL CUSTOMS CHANGE TOO

THE KHADAYATA Community of Dhansura village in Sabarkan District of Gujarat has taken a revolutionary step in eliminating an age-old custom in order to contribute its might to nation-building activities. According to the custom prevalent in this community, the bridegroom presents at the time of marriage, 14 tolas of gold to the bride-to-be. By a resolution passed recently at a meeting of the leaders of the community, only 10 tolas of gold will, now, be presented to the bride, while an amount of Rs. 500 will be presented in the form of National Savings Certificates.

* * *

EVERY GIRL STUDENT TO GET SCHOLARSHIP

THE TARANAGAR Panchayat Samiti of Churu District in Rajasthan has decided to award scholarships to each of the 300 girl students on the roll in all the educational institutions in the Panchayat Samiti area. A sum of Rs. 2,000 has been allotted for the purpose. Monthly scholarships to the poor students of Scheduled Castes are also being awarded.

* * *

ROAD BUILT THROUGH SHRAMDAN

A TWO and a half mile road connecting village Bolka to village Kali Pahari in district Alwar, Rajasthan, has been constructed recently through shramdan. A two-men team from each family had participated in the construction programme. In all 250 men were at work.

* * *

FROM THE CENTRE

TRAINING OF EXTENSION OFFICERS (INDUSTRIES)

STATE Governments have been asked to take urgent steps to utilise the full training capacity of small-scale industries service institutes in the country. In a communication to the State Governments, the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation points out that the next course at the four Small Industries Service Institutes at Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Madras and New Delhi will commence on January 3, 1963. The attention of State Governments is drawn to the fact that the training programme of Extension Officers (Industries) has not been given the desired attention in most of the States. According to figures received in the Ministry, it has been observed that up to March 1962 there was a net shortage of 441 officers. As a result of the shortage, only 169 officers were deputed by the States as against the training capacity of 400 seats in the four institutions.

* * *

CO-OPERATIVES OF HAND-CART PULLERS

HAND-CART pullers are to be given financial assistance to organise themselves into co-operatives. The move aims at ameliorating their economic condition and preventing their exploitation. The Central Government will assist State Governments and Union territories in providing interest-bearing loans subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per society repayable within a period of five years in equal annual instalments. In addition, the Centre will also give grants by way of assistance towards managerial expenses.

* * *

JOB CHART FOR EXTENSION OFFICERS (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY)

WITH A view to promote Animal Husbandry work in the Blocks on a sound basis, the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation have drawn up the Job Chart for the Extension Officer (Animal Husbandry) and circulated it to all the States for guidance. According to this, he is primarily to be held responsible for the formulation and efficient implementation of programmes of animal husbandry development at the block as well as the village level. Amongst his various duties are to arrange for timely procurement of the requisite supplies of live-stock equipment, feed, medicines etc. as also to inspect periodically all improved live-stock, equipment etc. made available in the Block. It is also enjoined upon him to advise and assist the service co-operatives in the formulation of individual farm plans. He will also assist the Panchayats to build up their community assets such as common grazing grounds and community shearing centres. He will take steps to promote live-stock development programme through voluntary organisation like the Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals.

* * *

CO-OPERATIVES UNDER THE RAILWAYS AND POST & TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS

A STUDY group has been appointed to examine the present conditions and problems of co-operatives under Railways, Post and Telegraph Department etc. and suggest specific programmes for their promotion and development on sound lines.

* * *

FABRICATION OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES

THE CO-OPERATIVES can and should play an important role in the manufacture and distribution of agricultural implements. In a letter circulated to all State Governments, the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation has suggested that well-established marketing societies particularly at the district and State levels should undertake the work of fabrication as well as the distribution of the agricultural implements. In this connection, a model scheme of a small-scale agricultural workshop has also been circulated for guidance.

* * *

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE BUREAU IN THE BLOCK OFFICES

THE GOVERNMENT of India have extended the scope of the Employment Service by setting up Employment Information and Assistance Bureaux in rural areas at the block level so as to bring the service nearer to employment seekers living in rural areas and to tackle the problem of chronic under-employment among them to the extent possible. The main functions of the Bureaux include (a) maintenance of up-to-date information regarding the employment situation by displaying appropriate Career Pamphlets, posters relating to training facilities in rural occupations, pamphlets on community development, etc. and (b) making necessary arrangements for employment assistance to local persons seeking work and also facilitate their recruitment for training in institutions.

To start with, the Bureaux have been located in blocks where man-power utilisation projects have been sanctioned. So far, these bureaux have been set up in nearly 130 blocks during the Third Plan period. To achieve necessary co-ordination, the Assistant Incharge of the Bureaux will serve more or less as an Extension Officer (Employment) and work under the Block Development Officer concerned in the performance of his day to day work although he will be under the technical control of the District Employment Officer concerned.

NEHRU'S CALL TO NATION

(Continued from page 4)

But the principal thing is for us to devote ourselves to forge the national will to freedom and to work hard to that end. There is no time-limit to this. We shall carry the struggle as long as we do not win, because we cannot submit to the aggression or to the domination of others.

AVOID PANIC

We must avoid any panic because that is bad at any time, and there is no reason for it. We have behind us the strength of a united nation. Let us rejoice because of this and apply it to the major task of today, that is preserving our complete freedom and integrity and the removal of all those who commit aggression on India's sacred territory.

Let us face this crisis not light-heartedly, but with seriousness and with a stout heart and with firm faith in the rightness of our struggle and confidence in its outcome. Do not believe in rumours. Do not listen to those who have faint hearts.

This is a time of trial and testing for all of us and we have to steel ourselves to the task. Perhaps, we were growing too soft and taking things for granted. But freedom can never be taken for granted. It requires always awareness, strength and austerity.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

I invite all of you to whatever religion or party or group you may belong, to be comrades in this great struggle that has been forced upon us. I have full faith in our people and in the cause and the future of our country. Perhaps that future requires some such testing and stiffening for us.

We have followed a policy of non-alignment and sought the friendship of all nations. I believe in that policy fully and we shall continue to follow it. We are not going to give up our basic principles because of the present difficulty. Even this difficulty will be more effectively met by our continuing that policy.

I wish you well and whatever may befall us in the future. I want you to hold your heads high and have faith and full confidence in the great future that we envisage for our country.

**Speech broadcast by the Prime Minister on All India Radio on 22-10-62.—Ed.*

LETTERS

(Continued from page 2)

For the purpose of imparting training, the pre-extension Blocks and stage I Blocks in the first year should be given priority for it is here that the members may not have had enough information. On the other hand, it is at this time that the members will have to play a more effective role to make the programme a people's programme. The members of the Blocks which have been in operation for a number of years already know about the Block set-up and have some understanding of the philosophy of the programme.

16-10-1962 Yours etc.
Gargoti, *S. G. Tungare*
Maharashtra State

Yuvati Mangal Dal in U. P.

Some members of the Yuvati Mangal Dal, Sahara.

The members of the Yuvati Mangal Dal learn the ancient art of 'Rangoli' to decorate the house.

A young lady is learning how to weave a carpet.

A young member of the Yuvati Mangal Dal seen as 'Bharat Mata' in a function held in village Sirsa. The Yuvati Mangal Dal holds cultural programmes from time to time for recreation and edification of the villagers.

A view of a concreted cattle-manger built by a member of the Yuvak Mangal Dal in village Sahara in Uttar Pradesh. The idea has spread throughout the village. Many farmers have now got pacca mangers like the one above.

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